

DAILY

VARIETY

DAILY

Vol. 121

No. 58

Hollywood (28), California, Monday, November 25, 1963

13

Ten Cents

ALL SHOWBIZ MOURNS KENNEDY

REACTION OF
PIX B. O. SPLITBiz Here Good, But
N.Y. Is Dented
By Tragedy

It was virtually his as usual at Los Angeles first-run over the weekend, but not so in New York where death of President Kennedy made a shambles of Broadway box-offices.

There was this difference, too, between situation on two coasts: Broadway cinemas closed Friday night, with trade very thin Saturday and yesterday; all L.A. film theatres remained open Friday, and virtually all did normal or even better his Saturday, yesterday being only slightly off.

Locally theatres with new pix (Continued on Page 4)

Assassination Cues
TV Shows Revamp
Coming Programs

A number of future program changes were made by networks in view of the sombre weekend events.

Ed Sullivan's CBS-TV show next Sunday was to have featured the Obratov Russian Puppet Theatre, but this taped performance, devoted to comedy and satire, has been postponed.

Comedy will be omitted from the Sullivan show now being prepared.

Garry Moore cancelled taping of the CBS-TV show he would have aired tomorrow, so a rerun of an old Moore show probably will be seen.

"Route 66," also CBS-TV, had scheduled a drama, "I'm Here To Kill A King," about the assassination of a foreign monarch, for next Friday. This will be replaced by another "66" drama.

Tomorrow's CBS-TV Red Skelton show is changing its script in view of the tragedy.

Unprecedented Broadcasting
Coverage Costing \$30 Mil

Unprecedented, all-out four-day news "crash coverage" by the three television networks, sans all entertainment programming and commercials, began Friday immediately word was flashed that President Kennedy had been murdered. It's estimated, on basis of annual gross of approximately \$2,000,000,000, that when the final bill is totaled up the four-day tab will exceed \$22,000,000. Figure includes losses on tv network day and nighttime programming as well as national spot business that would have accrued to the tv stations throughout the country.

The seven Los Angeles tv stations, in cancelling all forms of commercial programming over the four-day span, will lose approximately \$150,000 in revenue.

The 31 radio stations in the L.A. area, also foregoing commercialism over four days, will lose around \$250,000 in revenue.

Nationally, radio stations are giving up around \$7,000,000.

Final total might go higher than \$30,000,000 for tv, making this (Continued on Page 2)

B'way Blacks Out Signs; Legit Shows,
Opera And Niteries Shroud Tonight

New York, Nov. 24. — Broadway put on its most sombre dress in mourning President Kennedy. Shortly after it was made known the President was dead, nightclubs, restaurants, legit theatres, Met Opera, N.Y. Philharmonic, as well as some of the major restaurants announced that they would not open that evening. There were some exceptions, but niteries that elected to remain open would do so without music or entertainment.

Adding the most austere touch was the absence of most of the Manda spectaculars. Douglas Leigh Inc., which operates some of the largest signs in the world obtained permission from 90 percent of its clients to shut off signs' power. They were trying to make it 100 percent.

All Broadway legit theatres have cancelled Monday programs. Ticket (Continued on Page 2)

Dinner will be rescheduled at a later date. Zamuck, in Rome all week, was due back here this weekend.

Showbiz Stox Hit
By Death Of JFK

Before stock exchanges could close at 2:30 p.m. Friday — scant half hour before regular shutdown — the death of President Kennedy reflected a major setback in entertainment stocks as 14 shot downward.

Biggest skid was by MCA, down 6% to 62 1/2. Paramount fell 5 1/2% to 48 1/2, RCA 5 1/2% to 65.

Other losses included Ampex, down 3 1/2 to 16; ABPT, down 2 1/2 to 28; United Artists, down 1 1/2 to 19 1/2. Eastman Kodak and Tech- (Continued on Page 2)

STUDIOS, CLUBS,
FILM THEATRES
CLOSED TODAY

The assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy Friday had far-reaching, almost unparalleled impact on the entertainment industry.

Certainly not since the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in April, 1945, has showbiz generally been so "moved" — and moved to cut back operations today, the national day of mourning, on all levels and sundry facets.

If the decisions seemed to come slowly, and amid confusion, it was because the entertainment industry, along with the whole world, simply could not believe the dire news. Then, as the hours passed and all attention was galvanised on the shocking events and aftermath, as (Continued on Page 3)

Rod Serling, Froug
Speed USIA Film
On New President

Writer Rod Serling and producer William Froug jetted to Washington last night at the request of the USIA to prepare a half-hour documentary on President Lyndon Johnson, for showing abroad. Serling will write and narrate the documentary.

Kenneth Boles, project producer with USIA, called Serling from Washington and asked him and (Continued on Page 4)

Col Now 'Worrying'
About Releasing 'Bomb'

New York, Nov. 24. — Columbia, which had shedded a sneak preview of "Dr. Strangelove, Or How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb" at the RKO 86th St. Friday night, called off showing.

There also was some question expressed at Col as to whether the company would go ahead with (Continued on Page 2)

ON STAGE!
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VARIETY
News of the Show World
(Trade and Entertainment)
FOUNDED BY SIMS SILVERMAN
Published Daily, Except Saturdays,
Sundays and Holidays, with a
Special Edition the Last Week
in October

By Daily Variety, Ltd.
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6404 Sunset Boulevard
Hollywood 28, California
Phone HO-9-9900 9-1141

Vol. 121 Nov. 25, 1963 No. 38

Copyright 1963, by Daily Variety, Ltd.
Single Copies, 10 Cents
Annual \$10 - Foreign \$15
Second class postage paid at Los Angeles,
California.

THOMAS M. PEYOR, Editor

L.A. Legit Limp At Tragic News

All local legit houses were shuttered Friday, as were all such theatres across the country. With one night out of the week, both legit currently playing finished last week with less than expected return. "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?" opening Tuesday at Biltmore, completed initial week with \$30,024, and "Time Of The Baracudas" ended third lap at Huntington Hartford with \$21,737. Biltmore's Friday closing caused loss of \$7,300, and Huntington Hartford \$6,478, comprising a tell-off. Both sites were down considerably for both performances Saturday, as well, Hartford dropping off approximately \$500 for the evening show.

Scheduled opening of Letta Gaslar & Co., tonight at Huntington Hartford has been postponed until tomorrow, and show will now run through Sunday instead of Saturday. Biltmore will be open as usual tonight with "Virginia Woolf," but play an extra show this Sunday. Ralph Wonders, house manager, reported last night that all tickets for last Friday will be honored at this Sunday performance, or the one may be turned in for a refund or exchange for any other performance where seats are available.

None of the other smaller legit houses will be affected tonight, since none play Monday.

Some Films Halted Production On Friday

Lensing on several films closed down Friday afternoon following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Among those halting were Columbia's "Good Neighbor Sam," MGM's "Looking For Love" and "Signpost To Murder" and Warner Bros.' "Robin And The Seven Hoods." Metro's "Mr. Nevak" tele-series also closed down.

On set of Warner's "My Fair Lady" a period of silence was observed.

Advertising Note

Advertising which had been scheduled for today will be published in tomorrow's DAILY VARIETY.

JUST FOR VARIETY

By ARMY ARCHERD

The day the show could not go on: Sometimes, tears come hard in Hollywood. Not Friday, not today. The performing arts mourn a great friend and fan, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Friday is usually the most cheerful "day of the week." There is no deadline to meet and it's a day of studio visits to observe productions in progress, or completed, and to talk "live" rather than via telephone to as many as possible. Last Friday we chose to visit Metro, its call sheet was full and it promised to be alive, full of news. Another reason, Lawrence with President Kennedy at last Tuesday's lunch date with him in the White House. We planned to give it to Bob Goulet on his set.

The shattering news broke before we reached the studio's stages which suddenly became soundproof temples of mourning. Limousines, returning from the distant stages and backlots seemed a funeral cortege. Inside the cars, big and bit players wept openly. Adult and youngsters, members of the same show his family which John Kennedy loved, were unashamed in their sorrow. On the studio streets, players in gay costumes sadly made their way to the gates. Ann Harding, her eyes flooded, slowly walked past. Outside Stage 35, Connie Stevens wept openly and murmured, "Oh, those poor children." The studio desks arrived moments later to assist her. It was the beginning of a week-end whose story will pale any epic. Forthcoming films with so-called realistic political implications cannot hope to equal the drama that was unraveled "live" via television.

In the studio commissary, actresses and office help alike took lace-like paper dollies from table settings to use as head coverings when they joined all denominations in prayer at St. Augustine's Church across the street from the studio. . . . In the executive dining room where everyone commented on the impossibility of putting such a bizarre tale in a script, Alan Courtney noted, from past experience, the public had never accepted a feature or tv show which has as its theme a fictionalized Presidential assassination. . . . Within a month or so, tv showed "Suddenly," a 1964 United Artists release about an attempted assassination not carried out of a President.

The focal point of each sound stage suddenly became the familiar transfer radio — reminiscent of the happier days during baseball season. . . . Robert Goulet's dressing room was surrounded by cast members as he wept. Wife Carol, at home, was in near-hysterics, he said. Keenan Wynn unthinkingly whispered in an emotion-filled voice, "I hope it wasn't done by an actor." (The assassin was unknown in these minutes after the shooting).

Earlier in the day, Metro had given director George Englund permission to shut down his film Dec. 4 to produce a show honoring award winners of the John Kennedy Mental Health Foundation. The show was to star Jack Benny, Tony Bennett, Anna Moffo, Count Basie, etc. He had met with the Kennedy family the previous week. . . . Debbie Reynolds in her dressing room, "That's why I work for mental health — one out of 10 people today is potentially as sick (as the President's murderer). But what can you expect?" She became emotional, "—with so many slushy books, dirty movies and pornographic material going thru the mail. Teenage pregnancies are at all-time high and parental discipline at an all-time low. The country's morals are at a new low."

At the entrance to Desilu-Culver, a clown from "The Greatest Show On Earth" sadly waited at the gate — the mournful makeup grotesquely accurate for the day. . . . On the "Americanization Of Emily" set, Marty Ransohoff and Arthur Hiller were in confab, Jim Garner and Jim Coburn were unable to do one of the film's publicized scenes. . . . At the Joey Bishop stage at Desilu Hollywood the "live" audience was called off as Bishop filmed a show replacing one of the past week's gueststarring — Vaughn Meader, doing his well-known imitation. Zsa Zsa Gabor in the substituted show. . . . Bob Hope canceled taping with Bing Crosby and Janet Leigh until next weekend, and Hope will guest with Crosby Dec. 4. . . . Harold Mirisch called from London to tell brother Kennedy, Mirisch in London for — "Shot In The Dark". . . . Among weekend cancellations was a sneak preview of "Company Of Cowards" and the Friday night press showing of Jerry Lewis' "Who's Minding The Store."

NAB Cancels Conference

Washington, Nov. 24—National Assn. of Broadcasters fall conference, scheduled for tomorrow and Tuesday in Frisco has been cancelled because of death of President Kennedy.

Film Eds Postpone Meet

IATSE Film Editors Local 778 has cancelled annual membership meeting scheduled for tonight. Session, at which nominations of officers for coming year will be made, will be held later.

Mon., Nov. 25, 1963

BROADCAST COVERAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

most stupendous "special event" in the history of communications.

Never before has the communications industry covered an event as widely nor as fully as it did the assassination with its fast-breaking subsequent events, extending through today, declared a national day of mourning by President Johnson.

All three tv and radio webs, NBC, CBS and ABC, cancelled all entertainment and commercial programs until after today.

In 1945 radio cancelled commercial from death of President Roosevelt until after the services.

Some local stations broadcast music of a sacred or "neutral" nature to break the monotony of repetitive material. Networks also aired this type of music at times.

Web's Feeds Free

Local stations used feeds provided without cost from network stations to supplement their coverage; undoubtedly never before has there been such cooperation between stations and webs, normally heatedly competitive.

KHJ-TV, for example, showed a film about Roosevelt it got from NBC, and as credited the web. KTLA, KTTV and KCOP were fed by the networks during the "crash coverage." KABC-TV ran a KTLA tape of the Peter Lawford's leaving for Washington, KTLA being credited.

All the networks covered events with unprecedented thoroughness. Not only was there comprehensive coverage of the assassination and its somber implications, yesterday morning, the networks showed the actual murder of Lee Edmund Oswald, accused of the assassination. This undoubtedly is the first time a murder ever has been seen on tv. It was due to fact Dallas police had notified everyone exactly when the suspect would be moved from their jail.

Networks today will continue all-out coverage, with emphasis on the funeral.

Col Now 'Worrying' About Releasing 'Bomb'

(Continued from Page 1)

plans to release next month the macabre political satire.

Feeling is that release of pic, which deals in serio-comic fashion with the U.S. President and Yank-Runs relations, might not be deemed appropriate at this time.

Similar problem exists for Paramount's "Seven Days In May."

Las Vegas Blackout

Las Vegas, Nov. 24. — A 24-hour blackout of all entertainment in Las Vegas went into effect Friday after news of President Kennedy's death. Casinos will shut down for four hours Monday during the funeral — third time in 30 years the casinos will close as a group. First time was on a Good Friday in the early 1940's, second, for four hours, following FDR's funeral.

Mon., Nov. 25, 1963

VARIETY

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STUDIOS, CLUBS, FILM THEATRES CLOSED TODAY

(Continued from Page 1)
The sense of loss deepened and pervaded all, decisions came fast. All film and tv studios here are closed today. Most legit houses and niteries will be shrouded tonight and film theatres will not open until 6 p.m. Upon the death of FDR studios and many theatres and all niteries here closed for a day.

MFAA Statement
The Motion Picture Association of America upon announcing studios and film company offices will be closed, issued this statement:

"This is a terrible hour. The tragedy of Dallas must tear the hearts of all Americans with anguish. As the nation grieves, those in motion pictures mourn the loss of a true advocate. No President displayed the appreciation and affection for the motion picture as did John F. Kennedy.

"The country — yes, the world — is less than it was. A leader is gone."

The reaction to the tragedy began Friday when many niteries did not light up and it should be noted that numerous entertainment media sales items which had been trading on the Kennedy family since his inauguration were immediately pulled from local (and very likely national) store shelves.

Pickwick Bookstore in Hollywood and Music City store in Hollywood on Friday revealed all merchandises satiating the late Chief Executive has been removed from sale. With references to music, this includes several dozen varied record albums containing humorous anecdotes about the President or his family, particularly the top-selling Vaughn Meader "First Family" albums and numerous others by a variety of essentially comedy performers.

Similarly, the many paperback books, booklets and picture books that have sprung up in bookstores throughout the nation likely will be pulled from most stores, as they immediately were from the Pickwick racks.

Spokesmen for both stores noted all materials had been heavily stocked as Christmas items and, in the past, had been heavy sellers throughout the year.

Among niteries closing Friday night were Shelly Davis' Crescendo and Interlude, with operator also pledging to close both clubs tonight and estimating a \$6,000 loss on both nights. Davis had Meader booked next month at the Crescendo and, despite comedian's recent announcements of a switch from his Kennedy satire act, Davis is now negotiating a new, later date. Slaty Bros. postponed Kay Stevens' Friday night opening until Wednesday. Coconut Grove, Roaring 20's, Troubadour, Ash Grove and other smaller niteries closed for the night. Dine's Lodge, Jarry Lewis' Restaurant and the Beverly Hilton and Statler Hilton Hotels, while continuing to serve dinners, cancelled entertainment, including all music, for Friday night.

Only club of major spots pulled,

Showbiz In Washington Shrouded Today

JOHN F. KENNEDY

JOHN Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States and especial friend of the communicating arts, was savagely cut down in Dallas on Friday by a sharp-shooting assassin in a display of insane violence that has stirred revulsion and griefed mankind in this nation and throughout the world. Yesterday the accused assassin died, himself the victim of a vengeance contrary to the laws of the nation and the law of God that lighted the way for John F. Kennedy. His murderer is unmourned. But this morning all men of goodwill, each in his own way, join in the Pontifical High Mass of Requiem offered in the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington, D.C., to commend the soul of the late President, according to the Roman Catholic religion that he practiced, to the mercy of the Almighty God for life everlasting in the glory of Heaven.

Since that terrible Friday afternoon of Nov. 22 millions of words have been written and spoken from every corner of the world. One cannot help but wonder that if the same steadfast admiration had been expressed during the almost three years he has been averted and that today, instead of a nation and a world in mourning, mankind might be a step closer to attaining true dignity of intellect and spiritual communion.

The community of Hollywood and show business in general has lost a good friend, to fall back upon a tribe, but nevertheless apt expression, John F. Kennedy, more than any other President, had a feeling for, and close ties with, people in the performing arts. While Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a lively interest in seeing motion pictures and his wife was a mainstay of the Federal Theatre Project, President and Mrs. Kennedy — possibly because of youth and environment as much as anything else (the President's father was long active in motion pictures) seemed to have closer rapport with show folk.

The interest of the late President and Mrs. Kennedy in establishment of a national cultural center in Washington needs no explanation. Moreover, from the day of his inauguration celebration, in which show business played a most prominent part, President Kennedy did much by identification of his person to signify a high regard for people in the entertainment world. Indeed, he had scheduled for the motion picture business an unusual Presidential recognition. There was to have been a White House luncheon meeting on Dec. 10 for some 45 representatives of the industry — an event which would have accorded Hollywood an importance on a par with that reserved heretofore (outside of wartime emergency when entertainment automatically is recognized as a potent morale force) mostly for big industry and financing.

Because of this as well as personal relationships that enabled the late President to enjoy moments of informal relaxation in Southern California, the community of Hollywood has suffered — despite often pronounced political differences — an acutely personal loss in the martyrdom of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Today the show doesn't go on in Hollywood. Studios are closed in tribute to the memory of a noble first citizen and friend.

Lee Oswald Nabbed In Rowley Flagship

Dallas, Nov. 24. — Lee Harvey Oswald, now dead suspected assassin of President Kennedy, was captured in the Texas Theatre, 1,500 seater, built in 1931, and the local flagship of Rowley United Theatres' chain, headquartered here. The theatre is four miles from the downtown spot where the sniper killed the late President Kennedy.

Ironically, theatre's double feature matinee bill was "War Is Hell" and "Cry Of Battle."

John A. Callahan, Rowley's city manager, finished one showing of the double bill and closed all three Rowley houses here, Interstate Circuit, Trans-Texas Theatres and

to remain open as usual was the Basin Street West, currently spotlighting the Dinah Washington revue.

In some instances, niteries indicated performers want off pay for the closed nights in respect to the late President. Others, however, were paid as usual.

Stanley Warner Texas Inc., all chains, closed their houses Friday, as did local indie, but resumed operations Saturday and today. All film houses will be closed tomorrow (Monday) until 6 p.m.

Showbiz came to standstill here as the city mourned. With few exceptions, all niteries closed over the weekend.

Dallas Theatre Center, SRO with the legit "Can-Can," shuttered Friday for four nights. Dallas Civic Opera postponed Friday's opening of "A Masked Ball" until Saturday at State Fair Music Hall. Annual Crystal Charity Ball at the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel, with emcee Arthur Godfrey and The Paul Robeson and Joe Richman bands, cancelled Friday night, with the advance \$40,000 take going to the Children's Medical Center here as a memorial to the late President.

Jack Ruby, 32, who early today shot and killed Oswald as he was being led from police headquarters to County Jail, operates two strip-

All Performances Being Suspended

Washington, Nov. 24. — All showbiz here will be suspended tomorrow, day of national mourning, for the late President Kennedy's funeral.

National Repertory Theatre, scheduled to open at the National Theatre tomorrow night, with "The Crucible" putting off the first curtain until Tuesday.

The late President had an orchestra seat reserved at the National since his days as a Congressman and used it frequently during his 17 years here. His last visit to the theatre was for the opening last winter of "School For Scandal."

The Arena Stage, a theatre-in-the-round, ended its performance of "The Devils" today and its next play, "Battle Dream," isn't scheduled to open until Wednesday. For several niteries spots, the Monday closing will be fortuitous as that's the usual off day.

The posh Blue Room of the Shoreham Hotel, where Pat Suzuki is current, observes Monday as its usual off-day. Two niteries in the chi-chi Georgetown section, where the Kennedys lived before moving to the White House, cancelled Monday performances.

While the local show business community prepared to observe the funeral of its highest ranking enthusiast, its reaction to the President's assassination was one of complete shock. Like the rest of the local citizenry, showfolk have lost their unofficial Mayor, who in three short years had seemed to give the town some flair.

The National Symphony, its Musicians' strike settled only recently with White House help, cancelled all weekend concerts.

The National and Arena closed Friday but reopened Saturday. Both theatres offered Friday and Monday ticket-holders either refunds or options on other performances. Also cancelled was a concert by the New York Pro Musica Renaissance Band at the Library of Congress.

On the film front, the Warner and Uptown houses cancelled Friday night showings of "Cleopatra" and "How The West Was Won." The Stanley Warner management gave reserved seat holders refunds.

Showbiz Stox

(Continued from Page 1)
nicoler each lost 1%, closing at 110 and 14%, respectively. Cinema was down 1 1/2 to 10%, and Disney and Zenith, each down 1 1/2 to 38% and 72%, respectively.

Only Metromedia, Republic and Movielab showed gains, fractional.

teases niteries here. Ruby's only local police record is one 1965 State Liquor Board violation. Bomb threats reportedly have been received by Ruby's attorney, Mayor Earle Cabell and Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes.